



To: Interested parties
From: DES Assistant Secretary Pryor Gibson
Date: Oct. 1, 2020

Re: DES Program Updates on Extended Benefits, Increased Benefit Amount

Extended Benefits

After Oct. 10, 2020, the maximum length of time a person in North Carolina can receive federal Extended Benefits (EB) will be six weeks, regardless of when the person began receiving these benefits.

The duration for EB, the federal program that provides an extension to state unemployment insurance benefits, is being reduced to six weeks due to recent improvement in the state's unemployment rate. The maximum duration for EB has been 9.6 weeks.

Increased Weekly \$50 Benefit Payments will begin by Oct. 30

People who are eligible for the COVID-19 Increased Benefit Amount (IBA) will receive a \$50 retroactive increase in their weekly unemployment benefit amount starting with the benefit week that began on Sept. 6 through no later than the benefit week ending Dec. 26, 2020. DES estimates that approximately 15 – 20% of current claimants will be eligible for IBA.

The Division of Employment Security expects that payments for IBA will begin by Oct. 30, 2020. People do not need to file a separate claim for IBA; eligible claimants will receive payments when the program is in place.

The state's unemployment benefits system is currently being reprogrammed to determine claimants' eligibility for IBA, recalculate weekly benefit amounts and generate correspondence to notify claimants about the changes their benefits. These changes must be programmed and tested carefully to make sure they do not disrupt any of the other unemployment benefit programs being administered by DES.

Who is eligible for IBA?

Based on state law and federal guidance, a person's eligibility for the Increased Benefit Amount depends on:

- whether they are receiving state unemployment benefits or federal unemployment benefits; and
- when they initially filed for benefits.

The following chart provides more detail about eligibility.



Am I eligible for the Increased Benefit Amount?		
I am...	Eligible Your weekly benefit amount will be increased by \$50.	Not Eligible Your weekly benefit amount will not be increased by \$50.
Currently receiving state unemployment insurance benefits and filed my initial claim before Sept. 6, 2020.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Currently receiving state unemployment insurance benefits and filed my initial claim after Sept. 6, 2020.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Currently receiving federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, Extended Benefits or Trade Readjustment Allowance, and my state unemployment insurance benefits exhausted before Sept. 6, 2020.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Currently receiving federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, Extended Benefits, or Trade Readjustment Allowance, and my state unemployment insurance benefits exhausted after Sept. 6, 2020.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Currently receiving federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and filed my initial claim before Sept. 6, 2020.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Currently receiving federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and filed my initial claim after Sept. 6, 2020.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

Learn more about these programs, find frequently asked questions and see the latest unemployment benefits data at des.nc.gov.